REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed November 24, 2006. Claims 1-40 remain pending. Claims 1-2, 4, 13-15, 24-28, and 38-40 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-33 and 38-40 are rejected as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. 2004/0245352). Independent claim1, as amended, recites:

> 1. (Currently Amended)   A method of accessing a schedule on a controller coupled to a user interface, comprising the steps of:
>   initiating a schedule review mode within the controller, said schedule review mode permitting ~~read-only~~ viewing access only and not permitting editing access to at least one schedule parameter in the schedule,
>   while in the schedule review mode, manually selecting via the user interface one or more schedule parameters;
>   in response to the manually selecting step, displaying the one or more manually selected schedule parameters via ~~one or more schedule parameters for at least one period on~~ the user interface; and
>   exiting the schedule review mode.

As can be seen, claim 1 recites a method that includes the steps of: initiating a schedule review mode within the controller, said schedule review mode permitting viewing access only and not permitting editing access to at least one schedule parameter in the schedule; while in the schedule review mode, manually selecting via the user interface one or more schedule parameters; in response to the manually selecting step, displaying the one or more manually selected schedule parameters via the user interface; and exiting the schedule review mode. Smith clearly does not teach, disclose or suggest such a method.

The Examiner cites to paragraph [0057] of Smith for suggesting a schedule review mode. Paragraph [0057] of Smith states:

[0057] Touching REVIEW touch icon 164 <u>automatically</u> steps through the programmed values <u>every five seconds</u> so that the user can see how thermostat 10 is programmed. Touching REVIEW while the programmed values are being reviewed stops the review sequence. Touch-screen LCD 100 will return to the HOME SCREEN 120 a few seconds after the last touch entry, or the user can return to the HOME SCREEN 120 by touching HOME touch icon 154. Entered values are stored in a programmable memory (see FIG. 1, ref. num. 15) in thermostat 10.

As can be seen, the cited passage of Smith appears to teach providing a review sequence that <u>automatically</u> steps through the programmed values <u>every five seconds</u> so that the user can see how thermostat 10 is programmed. The review sequence appears to be entered by touching the REVIEW icon, and exited by touching the REVIEW icon a second time. Notable, the user does not appear to have any control over which programmed values are displayed while the review sequence is <u>automatically</u> stepping through all of the programmed values. Rather, it appears that the user must wait for the review sequence to automatically step through all of the programmable values, once every five seconds, until a desired programmed value is displayed. For a typical thermostat, the number of programmable values can be quit large (see, for example, Smith, paragraph [0055]), and waiting for the review sequence to automatically step through the programmable values at five second intervals could take considerable time.

Claim 1, in contrast, recites the steps of: while in the schedule review mode, <u>manually selecting</u> via the user interface one or more schedule parameters; and in response to the manually selecting step, displaying the one or more manually selected schedule parameters via the user interface. It is believed that allowing the user to <u>manually select</u> one or more schedule parameters for display is much more efficient and intuitive for a user than having to wait for the thermostat to automatically step through all of the programmable values every five seconds, as suggested by Smith. For these and other reasons, claim 1 is believed to be clearly patentable over Smith. For similar and other reasons, dependent claims 2-12 are also believed to be clearly patentable over Smith.

Now turning to independent claim 13, which recites:

13. (Currently Amended)   A method of accessing and programming a schedule on a controller equipped with a user interface, wherein the schedule has one or more programmable schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a scheduling routine within the controller, the scheduling routine including a ~~separate~~ schedule review mode separate from an ~~and~~ editing mode;

initiating the schedule review mode within the controller, wherein while in the schedule review mode, a user is not permitted to make changes via the user interface to at least some of the schedule parameters;

while in the schedule review mode, allowing the user to select and view a desired schedule parameter via the user interface;

~~displaying one or more schedule parameters for at least one period on the user interface;~~

initiating the editing mode within the controller;

modifying at least one schedule parameter in the schedule; and

exiting the scheduling routine.

As can be seen, claim 13 recites, among other things, the steps of: providing a scheduling routine within the controller, wherein the scheduling routine includes a schedule review mode separate from an editing mode; initiating the schedule review mode within the controller, wherein while in the schedule review mode, a user is not permitted to make changes via the user interface to at least some of the schedule parameters; and while in the schedule review mode, allowing the user to <u>select and view</u> a <u>desired schedule parameter</u> via the user interface. Thus, for the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, as well as other reasons, claim 13 is believed to be clearly patentable over Smith. For similar and other reasons, dependent claims 14-24 are also believed to be clearly patentable over Smith.

Now turning to claim 25, which recites:

25. (Currently Amended)   A programmable controller for use in controlling a system, the controller comprising:

a user interface; and

a processor configured to run a scheduling routine for modifying a schedule, the scheduling routine including a ~~separate~~ schedule review mode and a separate editing mode;

wherein the schedule review mode is configured to permit a ~~the~~ user to manually select and display one or more selected schedule parameters [[on]] via

the user interface ~~without allowing~~ and to not permit the user to modify at least
one of the one or more selected schedule parameters without first initiating the
editing mode.

As can be see, claim 25 recites a programmable controller that includes a processor configured to
run a scheduling routine for modifying a schedule, wherein the scheduling routine includes a
schedule review mode and a separate editing mode. Claim 25 further recites that the schedule
review mode is configured to permit a user to manually select and display one or more selected
schedule parameters via the user interface and to not permit the user to modify at least one of the
one or more selected schedule parameters without first initiating the editing mode. Thus, for the
same reasons given above with respect to claim 1, as well as other reasons, claim 25 is believed
to be clearly patentable over Smith. For similar and other reasons, dependent claims 26-37 are
also believed to be clearly patentable over Smith. For similar and other reasons, claims 39-40
are also believed to be clearly patentable over Smith.
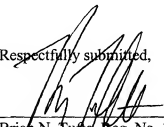
Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 34-37 are rejected as being unpatentable over Smith and further in view of Smith
(US 6,192,282, hereinafter "Smith patent"). The Examiner acknowledges that the Smith
application fails to disclose a controller for a security, lightning, sprinkler or A/V system, but
asserts that it would have been obvious to implement a review mode for the Smith application
controller according to the Smith patent. As detailed above, the Smith application does not
appear to teach or suggest the elements of independent claim 25, from which claims 34-37
depend. The Smith patent does not appear to provide what the Smith application lacks. Thus,
even if one were to combine the references, one would not arrive at the claimed invention.
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested. It is submitted that, in
light of the above remarks, all pending claims 1-40 are now in condition for allowance. If a
telephone interview would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-359-
9348.

Respectfully submitted,

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